



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 8, MONTANA OFFICE
FEDERAL BUILDING, 10 W. 15th STREET, SUITE 3200
HELENA, MONTANA 59626

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K. W. Maki
Libby Public Schools
& 24 Louisiana Ave.
Libby, MT 59923

Dear Mr. Maki,

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is pleased to support the Montana Science and Mathematics Partnership Project. EPA has worked with Libby School District teachers and administrators since 1999 to encourage student involvement in a variety of activities related to the ongoing asbestos investigation and cleanup, indoor air issues and second-hand tobacco smoke awareness. EPA will continue to support public schools in Libby by sharing information, providing speakers when possible, and encouraging Libby School district participation in the Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Program.

Good indoor air quality contributes to a favorable learning environment for students, productivity for teachers and staff, and a sense of comfort, health and well-being for all school occupants. These combine to assist a school in its core mission - educating children. The Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Program guides students through the process of addressing a number of issues or potential problems in their schools all requiring math and science.

Rising energy costs encourage the development of tighter buildings and a reduction in the amount of outdoor air brought into the schools for ventilation. In addition, school operating and maintenance budgets are often reduced to minimal levels. These actions, combined with the variety of indoor sources of contaminants - building materials, furnishings, cleaning agents, pesticides, printing and copying devices, combustion appliances, tobacco products, allergens, fungi, molds, bacteria, viruses, radon, lead and asbestos - can reduce the quality of the indoor environment, and consequently affect the health and well-being of school occupants. Enabling students to have an active role in helping to identify and solve indoor air problems in their schools allows them to gain knowledge and experience in the practical application of math and science.

Again, EPA supports this project and look forward to assisting, as appropriate.

Sincerely,

Original Signed

Wendy Thomi
Community Involvement Coordinator



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